Clinicians should use their judgment to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested.

- Depending on the clinical presentation, a Rapid Flu test is no longer needed prior to ordering a COVID-19 test.
- People with mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19 do NOT need testing and should be instructed to stay at home to recover.¹
- Patients under consideration for admission, inpatients, and high risk ambulatory patients are eligible for rapid testing.²

1. DHHS: 3.23.20: “People with mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19 do NOT need testing and should be instructed to stay at home to recover. Mild symptoms defined as fever and cough without any of the following: shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chest discomfort, altered thinking, cyanosis. Clinicians should use their clinical judgement and prioritize testing of patients with more severe respiratory symptoms; patients for whom clinical management would be different if they were infected with COVID-19; patients in high-risk settings (e.g., congregate care settings, long term care); and health care workers and first responders.”

2. Vidant Health: 04.07.20: Patients in high risk categories for clinical severity (e.g., 65 year and older, chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, heart disease, severe obesity BMI > 40, other underlying poorly controlled chronic health conditions such as diabetes, renal failure, liver disease, and immunocompromised) will be candidates for rapid testing through Vidant Medical Center.
Patients who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should self-isolate for:
• At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), and
• At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Patients with clinical COVID-19 infection do NOT need a negative COVID-19 test result to document recovery.

Close contacts of a person with known or suspected COVID-19 should self-monitor their temperature and symptoms of COVID-19, limit outside interaction as much as possible for 14 days, and self-isolate if they develop symptoms.